

NEWS AND NOTES.

Experiments in Lake Geneva show that delicate plants are influenced by light to a depth of 250 metres.

The *Journal of Botany*, XXII 108, states that W. B. Hensley points out that our *Sisyrinchium* is not *S. Bermudiana* of Linnæus which is much larger in all its parts and especially so in its broad leaves equitant at the base. Our species he refers to is *S. Angustifolium*, Miller.

A live tortoise was found in a solid cake of ice at Cornwall, Orange County, N. Y., recently. It measures eight inches in length and five in width, and was carefully cut out and taken to Mr. Clark's home, where, after it had lain in the sun a few hours, it began to show signs of life. It is now looked upon as a great curiosity, as the ice was gathered last winter, and the turtle was apparently none the worse for its congealed abiding-place.—*N. Y. Sun*.

In the July number of the *Torrey Bulletin* are found descriptions of ten new species of fungi by J. B. Ellis and Benj. M. Euerhart. Four of these are Canadian, having been collected by Prof. John Macoun, of the Dominion Geological Survey. They are named as follows: *Æcidium Ligustici* on *Ligusticum Scoticum*, Anticosti; *Nectria Canadensis*, on bark of Elm limbs, Ottawa; *Bosellina Macouniana*, on rotten wood, Ottawa; and *Nummularia Pezizoides*, on bark, Ottawa.

The Great Northern Shrike a Scavenger.

On the 24th of April, 1884, Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau shot three Butcher Birds (*Lanius borealis*) which were engaged in feeding upon the carcasses of seals at Point de Monts, on the north shore of the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. C. HART MERRIAM.

The Labrador Duck, *Camptolaemus Labradorius*, long a rare Bird in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The following note is of interest as bearing upon the length of time that the Labrador Duck has been a rare species, even along the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau wrote me, under date of February, 1882, that his father had mentioned as something unusual that he shot a Labrador Duck about twenty years previously, when he resided at Mingan.

C. HART MERRIAM.

Prof. H. N. Mosely, of England President of the Biographical Section of the British Association at Montreal exhibited specimens of *Utricularia vulgaris*, holding in its embrace a number of young fish which it had caught. The taste of this plant is omnivorous. Of late Mr. Simms, of Oxford, placed 150 perch fry in a vessel containing specimens of the plant, and at the end of two days found that all except one or two had been entrapped.

Kalmia. Dr. Somers, of Halifax read a paper before the "Institute of Science" in Halifax, supporting the hypothesis that the poisoning reported from the eating of spruce partridge in